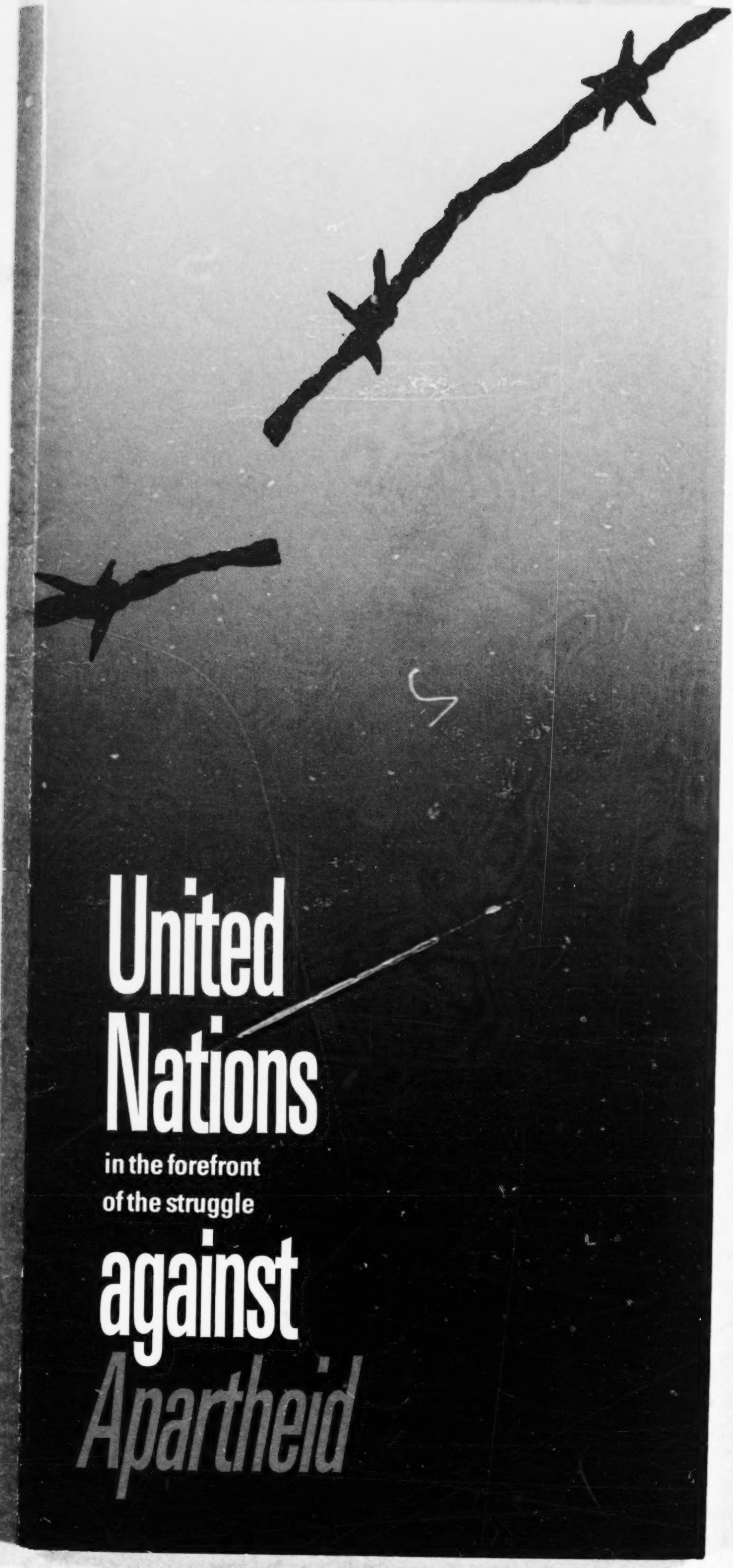

United Nations

in the forefront
of the struggle

against *Apartheid*

What is *Apartheid*?

Thirty-three million persons live in South Africa today. Of these, only the 4.5 million whites have full rights of citizenship. Twenty-eight million blacks cannot vote and have no political rights. They are subjected to controls which restrict where they can live, work, go to school, be born and be buried. This is *apartheid*.

The population of South Africa is by law divided into four main racial groups: whites (13.7%), denoting persons of European descent; Africans (75.3%), denoting members of "any aboriginal race or tribe of Africa"; Coloureds (8.5%), who are persons of mixed descent; and Asians (2.5%), meaning persons of Asian origin. The term "black" commonly refers to all racial groups except whites.

Apartheid ("separateness" in Afrikaans) is the system of unequal separation of racial groups established by the authorities of South Africa solely on the basis of skin colour. The objective of *apartheid* is the maintenance of white supremacy and economic privilege through the disenfranchisement and oppression of the majority black population.

South African laws restrict voting for and membership in the governing parliament to the white minority. In 1984, a segregated tricameral parliament was established with one dominant chamber for whites, one for Coloureds and one for Asians. The African majority has no political say and no vote.

An estimated 87 per cent of the country's territory is reserved for whites. The 13 per cent designated for Africans is the least productive and is divided into ten separate and noncontiguous geographical areas called bantustans, "homelands" or national states. Africans can own land only in the "homelands" and in certain designated African townships. Africans declared "citizens" of bantustans lose their South African citizenship, even if they are physically living in other parts of South Africa.

The authorities enforce racial classification and segregation of neighbourhoods and schools through a complex web of legislation. In 1986, the specific legislation regulating the movement of blacks was abolished, but laws on trespassing as well as housing and work permits are still used effectively to control their movement.

In 1990, South Africa began a process of change that may lead to a negotiated end to *apartheid* and to the adoption of a new constitution.

Some significant steps have been taken to foster a climate for negotiations and contacts between the ANC and the South African authorities have contributed to this end. A number of steps specified in the UN Declaration as necessary for establishing a climate conducive to negotiations, such as the lifting of bans on political organizations, the end of the state of emergency and the release of all political prisoners have already been implemented while the authorities have declared their intentions to remove some major institutional structures of the *apartheid* system.

While a process is under way, much more remains in place. The *apartheid* system has created a society besieged by massive problems of poverty and socio-economic injustice which need to be urgently addressed, in addition to the preparation of a constitution based on universal, non-racial suffrage.

In addition, violence and repressive legislation pose a threat to the negotiating process. The continuing violence in certain areas of the country, some of it linked to groups opposed to the democratic transformation of the country, is an issue of serious concern. Yet, the hope prevails that in the not-too-distant future South Africa shall become a united, non-racial and democratic society.

United Nations action against *Apartheid*

The United Nations has addressed the situation in South Africa since 1946.

The **General Assembly** over the years has declared that *apartheid* violates the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and is a crime against the conscience and dignity of mankind. It has repeatedly called for a peaceful solution of the conflict through concerted international action, including the isolation of South Africa diplomatically, economically and militarily. In 1962 it established the Special Committee against *Apartheid* to monitor closely South Africa's racial policies and promote the international campaign to end *apartheid*.

In 1974 the General Assembly barred the delegation of South Africa from participating in its work and recommended the exclusion of the South African authorities from participation in all international organizations and conferences under United Nations auspices so long as the authorities continue to practise *apartheid*. At the same time, it invited the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity to participate as observers in its debates. In 1976, it adopted a Programme of Action against *Apartheid*. Subsequently it declared 1978 as International Anti-*Apartheid* Year and 1982 as International Year of Mobilization for Sanctions against South Africa.

At its sixteenth Special Session in 1989, the General Assembly adopted for the first time by consensus a **Declaration on *Apartheid* and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa** that encouraged the people of South Africa to join together to negotiate an end to *apartheid* and to agree on all the measures necessary to transform South Africa into a non-racial democracy. The Declaration indicated the fundamental principles for a new constitutional order; measures to be taken by the South African authorities to create a climate conducive to negotiations and free political activity; guidelines to the process of negotiation; and a programme of action that called for sustained international action until there is clear evidence of profound and irreversible changes, bearing in mind the objectives of the Declaration, namely the eradication of *apartheid* and the establishment of a united, non-racial, democratic South Africa.

Following a visit to South Africa in June 1990 by a high-level United Nations team and in the consensus spirit established by the Declaration, the General Assembly at its resumed 44th session in September 1990 unanimously adopted resolution A/44/244, which reaffirmed the provisions of the Declaration and took careful note of

the Report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of the Declaration. The same spirit was maintained at its 45th session by the adoption by consensus of the resolution entitled "International efforts to eradicate *apartheid*", that again expressed concurrence on the need for the speedy eradication of *apartheid* through negotiations and called on the South African authorities to take a number of steps, and on the international community to maintain the pressure on *apartheid* South Africa, in order to achieve that objective.

To assist the victims of *apartheid* in South Africa and to publicize the effects of *apartheid*, the General Assembly has established various funds and has proclaimed the observance of several International Days in solidarity with opponents of *apartheid*.

The **Security Council** has reviewed the policies of *apartheid* since 1960. Recognizing that the situation in South Africa could endanger international peace and security, it instituted a mandatory arms embargo under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. In addition, it recognized the legitimacy of the anti-*apartheid* struggle in South Africa.

Other bodies of the United Nations have adopted specific measures against South Africa. The Commission on Human Rights keeps *apartheid* under close review and oversees the implementation of the conventions against racial discrimination and *apartheid*. The United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations focuses on the role of foreign investment, trade and loans through the transnational corporations in sustaining *apartheid*.

The Special Committee against

Apartheid

The Special Committee is at present composed of 17 Member States nominated by the President of the General Assembly. The current Chairman of the Committee is the Ambassador of Nigeria to the United Nations, Professor Ibrahim A. Gambari.

Functions

- To review, on a continuous basis, all aspects of the policies of *apartheid* in South Africa and its international repercussions, and to report as appropriate to the General Assembly, or the Security Council, or both;
- To support efforts leading to the eradication of *apartheid* through negotiations and the establishment of a united, non-racial, democratic society in South Africa, in line with the United Nations Declaration on *Apartheid* and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa and other United Nations resolutions.

Programme of work

As authorized by the General Assembly, the Special Committee is the focal point for the international campaign against *apartheid*. To fulfil its obligations the Special Committee regularly:

1 Monitors closely the developments in South Africa and the implementation, by Member States and all others concerned, of the Declaration on *Apartheid* and other United Nations resolutions against *apartheid* and prepares substantive studies and reports on the situation;

2 Holds consultations with Governments, organizations and agencies of the United Nations, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, as well as with individuals and groups, both inside and outside South Africa, able to influence public opinion and decision making;

3 Publicizes, by all means available, the effects of *apartheid*, and promotes international action such as:

The need to maintain existing measures against *apartheid* South Africa as effective instruments of pressure aimed at a peaceful resolution of the conflict in that country;

The arms and oil embargoes against South Africa;

The support for the speedy and full implementation of the agreements reached between the South African authorities and the representatives of the South African people.

4 Organizes international conferences, seminars, symposia, workshops and hearings on issues concerning *apartheid*;

5 Provides political and material assistance to opponents of *apartheid* inside and outside South Africa and their national liberation movements.

The Centre against

Apartheid

The Centre against *Apartheid* was established by the General Assembly in 1976 as a unit of the United Nations Secretariat's Department of Political and Security Council Affairs to stengthen and conduct action towards the elimination of *apartheid* in South Africa. It is headed by an Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. S. Mousouris, and consists of: (*a*) the Committee Services and Research Branch and (*b*) the Publicity, Assistance and Promotion of International Action Branch.

Functions

- To assist the Secretary-General and United Nations bodies concerned with *apartheid* in South Africa and to execute their decisions.

Programme of Work

The Centre:

a Services the Special Committee against *Apartheid* and its subsidiary organs, as well as the Committee of Trustees of the **United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa,** the Advisory Committee on the **United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa,** the **Intergovernmental Group to Monitor the Supply and Shipping of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa,** and the **Commission against *Apartheid* in Sports;**

b Conducts research on developments in South Africa as well as on the implementation by Governments and organizations of United Nations resolutions against *apartheid*;

c Prepares reports for the Secretary-General on the developments in South Africa as well as the international response to these developments and, as appropriate, undertakes consultations with the parties concerned;

d Promotes publicity against *apartheid* through the publication of reports by experts, pamphlets, films, posters and other information material;

e Promotes the maintenance of international pressure against South Africa; publishes annually the Register of sports contacts with South Africa and the Register of entertainers, actors and others who have performed in *apartheid* South Africa; it also publishes a bi-monthly News Digest on international action against *apartheid*;

f Administers:

(i) The United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa, which provides relief and legal and educational assistance to political prisoners and their dependants in South Africa;

(ii) The United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, which provides awards to young South Africans for study abroad;

(iii) The Trust Fund for Publicity against *Apartheid*.

These funds are made up of voluntary contributions by Governments, organizations and individuals. Contributions can be sent to the Centre against *Apartheid*.

For further information, write to:
Centre against *Apartheid*, United Nations,
New York, N.Y. 10017, USA

Targets for international action

1 Arms embargo The mandatory arms embargo obliges all States to cease providing South Africa with arms and related *matériel*, equipment and licensing arrangements for their manufacture or maintenance and to cease co-operating in the manufacture and development of nuclear weapons. In 1977, the Security Council established a committee to monitor compliance with the embargo and examine ways of making it more effective.

2 Oil embargo The objective of the voluntary oil embargo is to achieve a total cut-off of oil supplies to South Africa. In 1986, an **Intergovernmental Group to Monitor the Supply and Shipping of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa** was established to monitor compliance with the embargo. The Group gathers and disseminates information regarding violations of the oil embargo and recommends ways and means to prevent such violations. In addition to investigating alleged violations of the oil embargo, the Group monitors port calls by ships with petroleum-bearing capabilities to South Africa. It has also proposed a draft model law which, if adopted by Member States, would facilitate an effective implementation of the embargo. The Centre against *Apartheid* assists the Group in its work.

3 Sports links The international community has called for a ban on all sports contacts by organizations and individuals either inside or outside South Africa until *apartheid* is abolished. The International Convention against *Apartheid* in Sports entered into force on 3 April 1988. In March 1989, the Commission against *Apartheid* in Sports was set up to monitor implementation of the Convention. In September 1990, the Fourth International Conference against *Apartheid* in Sports adopted the Stockholm Statement which reiterated the need for the isolation of *apartheid* sports and the creation in South Africa of a national, non-racial sports federation. The Centre against *Apartheid* publishes an annual Register of sports contacts with South Africa.

4 Cultural and academic links The cultural and academic isolation of *apartheid* South Africa calls for non-South African artists and entertainers not to perform in South Africa or engage in any cultural contacts with it, and for scientists and academic personalities not to collaborate with the South African Government. However, any particular activity in the cultural and academic fields that has the intent and effect of opposing *apartheid*, enriching the culture of the oppressed people of South Africa and furthering the liberation struggle, is not within the scope of these boycotts. Governments, organizations and individuals are also asked to give appropriate assistance in the cultural and academic fields to the anti-*apartheid* forces

and to the disadvantaged sections of South African society. The Centre against *Apartheid* publishes a Register of entertainers, actors and others who have performed in *apartheid* South Africa.

5 Measures in the economic and financial fields The United Nations, working closely with States, local authorities, organizations and individuals, has repeatedly called for an end to economic relations with South Africa, particularly in the areas of investment, trade, transfer of technology, credits and loans.

6 Campaign for the repeal of repressive legislation The Special Committee against *Apartheid* promotes world-wide campaigns for the repeal of repressive legislation, such as the Internal Security Act, as well as for the release of all political prisoners, the return of political exiles and an end to detentions without trial.

7 Campaign to support the black trade union movement The Special Committee against *Apartheid* has called on Governments, trade unions and employers' organizations all over the world to support black workers' demands, including full trade union rights. Through the appropriate channels, it provides aid for the legal defence of trade unions, their members and black workers.

8 Educational and other assistance to the victims of *apartheid* The international community provides economic, humanitarian, legal, educational and other assistance to the victims of *apartheid*, and to all those, including previously banned organizations, who oppose *apartheid*. The United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa offers legal assistance and relief to persons persecuted under repressive laws, and the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa provides scholarships to disadvantaged South African students.

9 Observance of the International Days of Solidarity The United Nations observes the following International Days of Solidarity on the anniversary of important dates in the struggle against *apartheid*: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March); International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa (16 June); International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa (9 August); and Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners (11 October).

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